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NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

C MTE 3-SR

NFIB 18.5/1
29 December 1986

20 FEB 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD PRINCIPALS

FROM: Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Review of National Intelligence Estimates for Possible
Declassification and Release to the Public

1. Attached, please find a memorandum from the Director of Information Services, Central Intelligence Agency, asking the Intelligence Community's authority to review the estimates for proposed release, in whole or in part, as though they are CIA records. The request is intended to save time and resources. The estimates to be reviewed cover the period up to the mid-1960s.

2. There is no intent to discuss this request at an NFIB meeting unless one of the principals so requests. Please, therefore, forward any comments on this request to the NFIB Secretariat by noon, 9 January 1987. If the Secretariat has not heard from you by that time, or received a request for more time for consideration, the Secretariat will take it that you concur with the request.

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Attachment:

Memo to ES/NFIB fm D/OIS
dtd 18 Dec 86 (OIS 86*737)

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Attachment to:
NFIB 18.5/1

OIS 86*737
18 December 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, National Foreign Intelligence Board

FROM: Director of Information Services

SUBJECT: Review of Estimates for Possible Declassification and
Release to the Public

1. The classification Review Division (CRD) of OIS, as part of its Historical Review Program, is considering a review of National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs), Special National Intelligence Estimates (SNIEs), Special Estimates (SEs), and Special Intelligence Estimates (SIEs) as one of the next major groups of records to be reviewed for release under that program. Because these estimates are the product of the Intelligence Community through the National Foreign Intelligence Board (NFIB) and its predecessors, they have been treated as interagency documents, even though they were published--and in many cases entirely written--by the CIA.

2. As Interagency documents, they would have to be coordinated before release with the five agencies that participated in the production of all estimates (Army, Navy, Air Force, DIA, and State) plus any other agencies whose equities may be involved. This is very time-consuming and a real burden to those other agencies, as we saw when CRD systematically reviewed the earlier estimates through 1965 for declassification or downgrading. During this systematic review, CRD coordinated only those estimates that were proposed for declassification. A review of all estimates for proposed release, either in whole or in part, would, indeed, strain the resources of many agencies and delay the process considerably.

3. The estimates record group is a good candidate for the Historical Review Program because these documents are in great demand by scholars, researchers, students, and news media representatives. A number have already been released through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and others have been published in Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS). It is, therefore, requested that the Intelligence Community be asked to grant CIA the authority to review all estimates for release, in whole or in part, as though they were CIA records. We would, of course, coordinate our proposed action with other agencies as appropriate when another agency's equities are clearly

SUBJECT: Review of Estimates for Possible Declassification and
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involved or when additional opinion is required, as we do in the case of any
CIA records being reviewed for release. This would greatly expedite our own
work and relieve the rest of the Community of the time-consuming task of
extensive review.



Director
Office of Information Services

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SUBJECT: Review of National Intelligence Estimates for Possible
Declassification and Release to the Public

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(29 Dec 86)

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